

Third Sunday of Lent  
March 22, 1987

I will pour clean water upon you,  
and wash away your sins.

notre dame

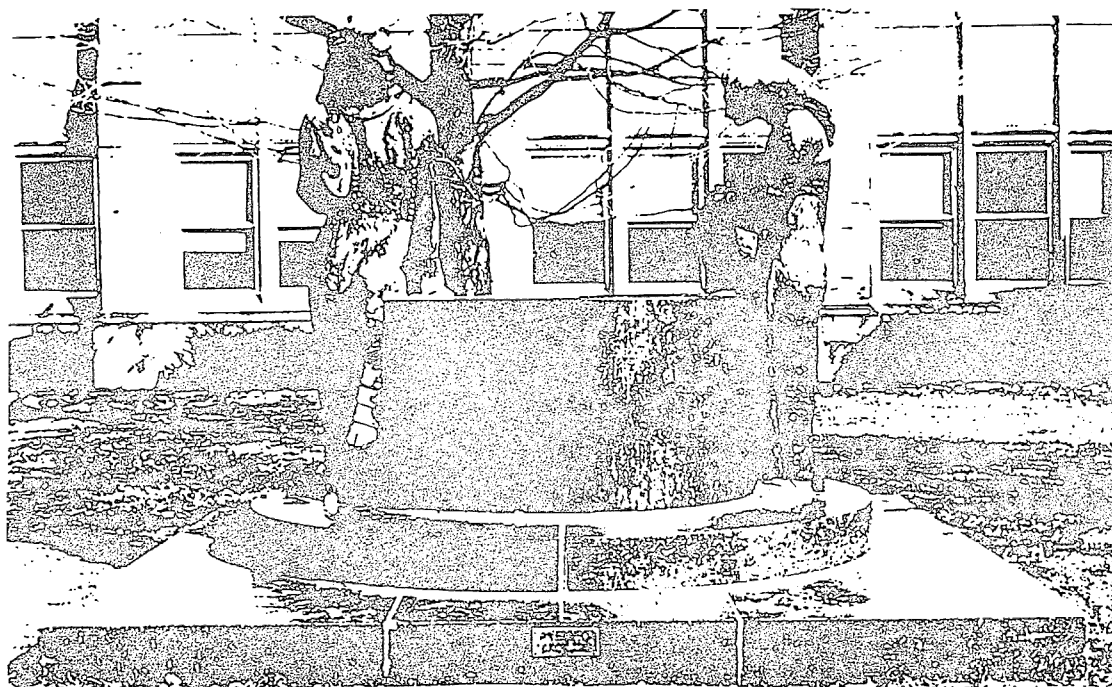
RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

Vol. III Issue 23 March 22, '87



Office of  
UNIVERSITY  
MINISTRY  
University of Notre Dame  
Notre Dame, IN 46556  
Lenten Observance 21 to 25-0524  
Phone: 317-234-6262

# THE WELL IS WITHIN YOU . . .



## WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Sr. Dorothy Lynch, C.S.J.

Today's Gospel is a dialogue between a man and a woman. The custom of the day would ordinarily prevent them from talking to one another. But Jesus opened the conversation, asking her for a drink. The woman, unnamed, an outcast, and thirsty, sensed Jesus' concern and respect for her, which gradually thawed out her coldness and slowly broke down her defenses. She had to make a choice then either to turn her back on the man or to remain there and continue the conversation. Gradually she came to recognize Him as a Jew, a prophet, the Messiah, Christ.

continued on next page...

Jesus surrounded Himself with women who follow Him, who responded to Him with compassion and great love. They felt recognized for their gifts, their service, and were courageous in spreading His message of peace. Jesus broke through racial, social, and economic barriers to touch, to heal, to speak to the depth of the soul of an individual. He was moved with compassion for the oppressed.

The mission of the Church today is to be a sign and an instrument of the unity of God and humankind, so the Church is to attest to the full human and Christian dignity of all people not only by word but especially by example.

How great it is when the women in the Church today are welcomed to be in dialogue with the men, in a non-threatening way, each contributing from her/his own knowledge and experience. The issues today are complex, not easily solved, and requiring the sensitivity of a listening ear, a gentle heart, and patient endurance. Unfortunately, women are often not a part of the decision-making function in the Church even though many of the decisions made affect women. The Church, Disciples of Jesus, are struggling with the complicated issues of birth control, abortion, homosexuality, drugs, alcoholism, divorce, infidelity, racism, etc.

Women are becoming ever more conscious of their human dignity and are aware of their god-given abilities and skills as leaders, listeners, ministers, healers, artists, etc. They long to be chosen to minister in the Church according to their abilities, talents, and gifts.

The woman at the well was transformed by her encounter with Jesus. She drank in new words, "The well is within you--living water springing up to eternal Life." The woman heard and was sent in mission to tell others who had not yet heard or who were not able to hear the Good News--there is a new way of seeing and hearing and being. She tells 'her world' that her God, their

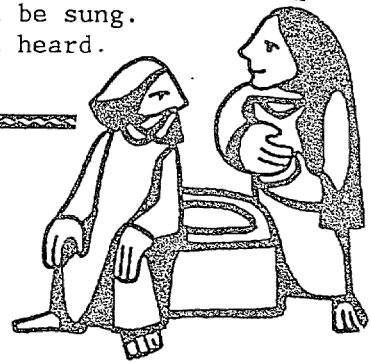


God, is warm and compassionate and forgiving and longs to live among them. Jeus wanted that woman to minister in that way.

To quote from Sr. Mary Southard's calendar, GO TELL MY BROTHERS:

The song of peace is woman's song  
She sings the song of life's seasons  
Rhythms of birth and death, receiving and giving  
Times of waiting and fulfillment, suffering and joy  
She sings a gentle song of listening and hope  
of wholeness and unity  
of harmony with earth  
and reverence for her gifts

Her song is compassion; her song is love  
If nations would be healed, woman's song must be sung.  
If there would be peace, woman's song must be heard.



*Whoever drinks the water  
I give him will never  
be thirsty*

# For 1,500 ex-offenders, talent blossoms.

When you see talent unfold, it's a beautiful sight indeed. That's exactly what The Rev. James Harvey has seen through his imaginative Flowers With Care program.

This program was founded in 1975 by Father Harvey who saw troubled teenagers leave correction programs with no goals and no hopes. But Father Harvey had an idea. He took those he thought had potential and provided them with basic education, counseling and a lot of nurturing. Through his persistence, he then found them jobs



with florists around the city. Not only have 1,500 learned the florist business but they've learned something more—dignity. And they're blooming with purpose.

But Father Harvey isn't content to stop there. He wants to expand his program. And help even more talent blossom.

*The Bankers Trust Company Group is pleased to provide support for this program. If you or your corporation would like to help, please call Wendy Hall at (718) 726-9790.*



**The Bankers Trust  
Company Group**

## Do you hear what I hear?

### A DIFFERENT VOCATION

Polly Carl, Lyons Hall

I feel like I spent my whole life wondering what in the world I am going to do. In about the second grade I started making a list of possible professions. I was going to be either a doctor, a lawyer, a singer or an actress. Let's just say I wasn't quite certain at the time. Of course, as I entered high school and started thinking about colleges, I was determined to be a lawyer.

Then came my freshman year of college and suddenly I felt less certain of my goals and of myself. I began to see that I was "different" - not better - but different. I wore the same clothes as most of my friends, but as every one was heading to the bars, I felt separate. I did not know what was the matter with me. Was I just naturally boring or what? I just had this feeling that I wanted to be doing other things like reading, praying and talking to others about their pains and joys and about how God worked in their lives and mine. I didn't want these conversations to be the exception while parties and the bars were the norm, but I wanted to center my life around the opportunity for spiritual growth. This desire to know God better through others and through quiet time was, and is, a passion.

In London last semester I was really going to try to "fit in" for the first time. I went to all of the pubs and night clubs and began doing the things most of my friends had been doing since the beginning of college. I came to an amazing conclusion that I could do all of those things too, and that those things didn't make me feel happy and weren't a source of pleasure- AND THAT WAS OK!

I am different. I have this "thing" inside of me that drives me to know myself in relationship to God as best I can. This is my passion, my heart, and the center of my life. My passion is not the passion of many of my friends and fortunately they can lovingly accept that. I still don't know what I am going to do with my passion, but I am fairly certain I am not going to be a doctor, a lawyer, a singer, or an actress. I believe my vocation is to follow my passion, and try to share my love, joy, and enthusiasm about God in the way that God leads me. God is every where and can be a part of any vocation, and probably even hangs out in the bars once in awhile, but I have a feeling my vocation may be different than that of most of my friends - AND THAT'S OK.

